

AAF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT. By this time, most wings are in possession of substantial quantities of communication equipment which was shipped from the AAF Specialized Depot at Memphis, Tennessee. All of us are not in the position to know it and it may not be apparent from the quantities which will be received ultimately by individual units, but the task of apportioning, crating, and routing that equipment to our 48 wings was no corner drugstore business. Nobody could ask for more cooperation than that demonstrated by Major Allen Peeler, Signal Officer of the Depot, who placed his entire facilities at our disposal. Probably our greatest debt is to Captain Don Pollard, Signal Supply Officer, who engineered the operation so successfully.

As there is some question as to how this communication equipment might be utilized, a few suggestions are offered. Our National Communications Consultant, Major William P. Lear, has conceived the excellent idea of exchanging various items amongst the wings so that complete sets could be assembled. These completed sets could be used for instructional, familiarization, and operational purposes. An opportunity then would be provided for our cadets to become familiar with the types of radio equipment with which they will come in contact if they should enter the Service. Unfortunately, use of the transmitters is hampered due to lack of authorized frequencies. Other uses are the construction of breadboard lay-outs and similar training aids and the utilization of adaptable components in our WERS program.

Many Communications Officers have asked what limitations affect the conversion of this equipment and material into WERS units. When this equipment is used in connection with WERS, it may be modified, altered, or reassembled in any way necessary to fit local requirements. It is realized that the medium frequency transmitters, which most wings have received, cannot meet the requirements of 2½ meter operation without extensive modification. At the discretion of their Wing Commander, Communications Officers may accomplish whatever alterations are needed in order to so utilize such a set.

ADVICE FROM WEST VIRGINIA. An article is quoted which appeared recently in the "Mountaineer Fliers" C.A.P. News, official publication of the West Virginia Wing. It pertains to the AAF material which was issued to the Civil Air Patrol about last March and expresses our views exactly:

"Now that all of the State Units have received their share of the AAF radio parts what will we do with them? What good are they? How?

It must be understood that there were few directly useable pieces of equipment in the selection the Wing received. This was also true Nationally. There were no nice, new, shiny transformers, no loudspeakers, no microphones -- none of the stuff that we, in normal times, would go to the store and buy. But take another look. Have you noticed the wires inside one of the heavy white cables? Dandy, small, shielded wire that would do wonders in the microphone section of a modulator stage or amplifier.

All of those coils -- whew -- what to do with them? Have you tried making R. F. chokes out of them? 'Tis easy. Unsolder the leads, remove the wood dowels and reassemble several of the larger windings on a new wood rod. Connect the leads and direction of windings in series -- presto! A pie-section choke of almost any inductions you would care to make.

Another trick with the coils would be to reassemble several of the windings (secondary) in a manner so that the mutual inductance could be varied. This would make an antenna or oscillator coil for low frequency (200-600 KC) that might have interesting results.

The shielded tubing presents a problem not so easily solved. One Communications Officer said of this tubing that he was unable to get sound or radio programs out of it -- true -- but what a dandy start it would make for a co-axial cable! Some insulating buttons and a piece of wire are all that is needed. Might try it as an inductance on a micro-wave transmitter . . . wonder how that would work?

Recall the early days of Amateur Radio? Remember when we made capacitors out of glass plates and tin foil -- when we soldered flashlight batteries together to make a "B" battery? Well, that is the kind of stuff it is going to take to make full use of the AAF parts. And by golly they are worth using too!"

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AAF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. National Headquarters is accountable for all the communication equipment which has been shipped to CAP Wings throughout the country, exclusive of those items which may be issued by local Signal Property Officers. Wing Commanders are urged to effect prompt compliance with Communications Directive No. 5A dated 28 July 1944 in order that our accounting records may be properly posted in accordance with Army Regulations.

WERS IN PENNSYLVANIA. A wing encampment for training purposes was held at the Reading Army Air Field by the Pennsylvania Wing on 4, 5, and 6 August 1944. To us, the most interesting thing about this encampment is the fact that the Wing Communications Officer, Capt. "Hank" Walker, had the area completely covered with a WERS system. Units were installed at expedient points and communication was carried on continuously. One or two emergencies arose as a result of which there might have been serious consequences had it not been for Capt. Walker's radio system. Moreover, due to the lack of wire facilities, countless footsteps were saved. The conclusion at which all participants arrived was that WERS had definitely proven itself practical and an invaluable aid to any CAP activity. As Capt. Walker points out in a written report to us, a system for local emergency covering a greater area could be established if there were relay points to cover distances beyond the range of any single unit. What are you doing to make your WERS a real service to your Wing?

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